



Presorted
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 4621

Utah Watershed Review

Vol. 11, No. 2

Utah's Nonpoint-Source Water-Quality Newsletter

April/May 2003

Murray Celebrates Arbor/Earth Day



Several hundred Murray City residents gathered on a Friday afternoon in late April to celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day. Elementary school students sang and read poems about trees and the earth. Following the program, students and residents got to see presentations by local, state, and federal agencies.

Stream Bank Planting Starts Early



Volunteers from the Utah Federation for Youth and the Utah Society for Environmental Education work along side youth from the Sorenson Center to plant dormant willow.

Bear River Celebration Goes on Despite Snow



Rain, sleet and snow didn't dampen spirits on Saturday, April 26, at the Bear River Celebration in Cache Valley. The all-day celebration showcased student artwork and learning projects about the watershed from four schools within the Bear River area. The students also helped construct a berm for a water quality service project on site. Representatives of Utah's natural resource agencies and organizations shared information as well as hands-on displays and activities including viewing live fish, aquatic insects and hawks. The festival was co-sponsored by the local soil conservation districts, Utah State University Extension and other conservation partners.

Youth and adult volunteers from the Utah Federation for Youth got an early start on spring planting by planting dormant willow cuttings along the Jordan River in Salt Lake City.

The March 10th activity took place more than a week before the official start of spring. But unlike many spring time plants that can freeze and die if planted too early, these willow cuttings are dormant and meant to be cut and planted before the growing season begins.

While some guide books say to cut the willows about 24 hours before planting, that wasn't practical in this case because the planting activity took place on Monday afternoon.

Utah Federation for youth staff, with assistance and direction from Utah Department of Agriculture and Food employee W.D. Robinson, gathered the morning of the planting at a spot along the river where there is a healthy stand of willows. They cut 3-4 foot lengths of willow branches

and bundled them in groups of 10 for the 3 mile trip to the planting site.

At the planting site the adults let the youth participants take over. Two groups of youth participated in the planting activity. The first group from the Sorensen Multipurpose Center were mostly elementary age children. With a lot of assistance from adults they started to dig deep narrow

See "willow" on page 4

Highlights

Water quality briefs.....page 2

NPS Outreach Toolbox
Preview.....page 3

Willow planting part 2.....page 4

Water Quality Briefs

EPA Withdraws TMDL Rule

Washington, D.C.--The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rule developed during the Clinton Administration was officially withdrawn recently. That leaves the original TMDL, or watershed rule in place that was developed as part of the 1987 Clean Water Act.

Because of law suits and extensive criticism, the Clinton era rule was set to be replaced by now. About two years ago, EPA embarked on an 18 month process to re-write the rule into a more workable and legally viable watershed rule. Drafts were written, public meetings were held, but then EPA decided after the deadline passed to put the new rule “on hold indefinitely.”

The TMDL, or watershed rule is designed to give states and local groups clear guidelines for determining water pollutant loading allocations.

There is no word on when or if a new rule will be put into place.

Great Salt Lake Getting Lower

The Great Salt Lake, which is 14 feet lower than it was in 1984, may continue to drop through 2005, according to a Utah scientist.

Connely K. Baldwin, a research engineer at the Utah Water Research Laboratory at Utah State University, has been researching a connection between Great Salt Lake levels and temperature variations in the north Atlantic Ocean. Baldwin found that the volume of the lake since 1850 has matched temperature swings more than 2,200 miles away in the north Atlantic. The colder the water gets there, the more the Great Salt Lake fills up, according to the researcher.

Baldwin says that the water temperature in the north Atlantic influences Great Salt Lake levels as much as El Nino, the warming of an equatorial belt of Pacific Ocean water that can bring more moisture to areas of the West.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says a moderate El Nino established itself in December 2002, and started to break up by the end of February 2003. While El Nino did bring more

moisture to many parts of the country, the Mountain West, including Utah, stayed drier than normal.

El Nino and Baldwin’s findings could signal a gradual end to the drought that has gripped much of the West for four years. Southern Utah has been especially hard hit, suffering its driest period in at least 50 years, according to other studies.

But before it makes a recovery, the Great Salt Lake will drop to its lowest level since the early 1960s, Baldwin said. The lake should bottom out in 2005 and should start to rise again in 2006. However, his prediction does not go beyond 2006. The rate at which the lake will recover is not clear, he admits.

While the lake has dropped about 14 feet in the 19 years since the last flood cycle, half of that amount has been in the past four years during the current drought.

2003 NPS Conference to be Held at Bear Lake

The 2003 Utah Nonpoint Source Water Quality Conference will be held September 3-5, 2003 in Garden City, Utah, along the shores of Bear Lake.

Though Labor Day typically marks the end of the tourist season for the higher-elevation resort community, many seasonal businesses will remain open the rest of that week to accomodate the conference.

Because of its location, this year's NPS conference will join forces with the Bear River Water Quality Symposium to focus on Bear Lake and the Bear River as the theme of the 2003 conference.

A highlight of the meetings is a schedule panel discussion about the river and the lake by the state water quality directors, state agriculture commissioners and NRCS State Conservationists from Utah, Idaho and Wyoming.

Beuase of the subject matter, interest in this year's conference is expected to be high. Because of the location, registration will be limited.

Look for additional information in the June issue of *Utah Watershed Review* and through direct mailing. If you attended the 2002 NPS conference you will automatically receive a mailing. If not, e-mail Jack Wilbur at the address to the right.

Proper Functioning Condition Training to be Held in Logan

Training Announcement

Proper Functioning Condition Assessment for Riparian-Wetland Areas

You are invited to submit nominations to attend a 2-day training session on the Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) of Riparian-Wetland Areas. This session is an activity of a west-wide effort entitled “Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management.” The focus of this effort is to facilitate cooperation with all landowners, on a watershed scale. Effective restoration and management must promote the establishment of common terms, definitions, and methods. This tool has proven useful in determining those opportunities where there is a high probability for positive change with a reasonable investment, while enhancing management and problem solving at the local level by the people most affected.

Emphasis is on bringing people with diverse backgrounds and values together and implementing the use of this assessment method as a key tool for a collaborative, landscape approach applied at the ground level. In order to accomplish this, the training is available to Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, industry and conservation interests, and

others. Please share this announcement within your networks.

This session will be held in Logan, Utah, June 3-4, 2003. Instructors include members of the National Riparian Service Team and the Utah Cadre. The first day will take place in a classroom setting and the **second day will be spent in the field.** There is no tuition and attendance will be limited to **35 people.** For those selected to attend, specific information regarding meeting room location and motels will be provided.

Please submit nominations to Steve Smith (phone 435-865-3231, fax 435-865-3791, email sjsmith@fs.fed.us) by May 11, 2003. Be sure to include the following information:

Name
Affiliation or agency
Address, phone, fax, e-mail
Interest or discipline/expertise

Salt Lake City Water Rates on the Rise

In the face of a fifth straight year of drought, the Salt Lake City Council approved a water rate restructuring plan in late April.

Effective June 1, 2003, heavy water users will pay more for water during the heavy use months of April-October. The new rate schedule is not going into effect to fight the drought. It's needed because the drought and increasing publicity about conserving water have lowered revenues.

Utah Watershed Review

Utah Watershed Review is a publication of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, in conjunction with the Utah Division of Water Quality.

Utah Watershed Review is funded by a grant with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, and by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

Newsletter editor.....Jack Wilbur

Editorial review/support.....George Hopkin

Editorial review/support.....Mike Reichert

Story/idea submissions, comments and requests for additional copies should be directed to the editor: Email--jackwilbur@utah.gov.

National Nonpoint Source Outreach Effort Under Way

NPS Outreach Toolbox due out soon

After nearly three years of research and behind-the-scenes work, the Outreach Workgroup of the national State-EPA Nonpoint Source (NPS) initiative is ready to release the first phase of the NPS Outreach Toolbox.

The outreach toolbox is designed to help local watershed groups, municipalities, soil conservation districts, rural water companies and others develop and implement their own successful water quality outreach campaigns.

The first phase of the toolbox, due out by June, is a teaching guide and companion video.

Getting in Step: A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns, contains more than 90 pages of instruction, examples and interactive work sheets that take groups through a six-step process of developing and implementing an outreach campaign.

The six step process includes developing:

- Goals
- Target Audience
- Messages
- Format
- Distribution
- Evaluation

The companion video includes a short overview of the steps followed by four case studies from around the country that show the steps in use.

The video and guide are free and available through the consulting firm Tetra Tech. Please refer to the announcement and order form on this page.

Eventually the guide book will also be

available on the EPA web page, www.epa.gov/owow/nps/outreach.html.

Phase II of the toolbox, a CD-ROM of existing materials related to

personal stewardship activities around the home will be available near the end of 2003. CDs with existing materials related to other NPS categories will soon follow.

The third phase, newly produced materials for each major NPS category will be released incrementally. There is no word yet when Phase III will start to be released.

Getting in Step

A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns

Coming
Spring 2003!

The EPA/State Nonpoint Source Outreach Workgroup is pleased to announce the release of the expanded guide ***Getting in Step: A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns***. The guide is an update of the popular 1998 ***Getting In Step: A Guide to Effective Outreach in Your Watershed***. The new release explains how to map out strategies and tailor campaign materials to reach your critical target audience for maximum campaign effectiveness.

The guide includes:

- Tips on applying community-based social marketing techniques
- Creating your outreach message
- Targeting your audience
- The scoop on working with mass media, and
- How-to's on developing materials, presentations, and creative community campaigns

The guide also comes with a companion half-hour video that showcases four watershed campaigns around the U.S. and the outreach techniques used to accomplish each community's goals.

For more information, and to download a copy of the book guide when it is available, visit www.epa.gov/nps/outreach.html

To reserve your free **Getting in Step** guide and/or its companion video, return this form to:

Melissa Galyon
Tetra Tech, Inc.
10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 385-6000
Fax: (703) 385-6007
E-mail: melissa.galyon@tetratech-ffx.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Please send: ☐ book guide ☐ video guide ☐ both

Apparent Vandalism Required Re-cutting and Re-planting of Willows

Within two weeks of the March 10th willow planting along the Jordan River by volunteers from the Utah Federation for youth, nearly all of the new plantings had been destroyed or removed.

“It was very upsetting to drive by there and see all our hard work gone,” said Troy Bennett, program director, Utah Federation for Youth.

Bennett was returning home from an activity with family when he decided to stop by the planting site and check on the willows. He found very little evidence that the cuttings had ever been planted. Most of the willow sticks had been pulled from the ground and taken away from the site. A few of the removed sticks were still on the ground near their holes and a few of the cuttings remained in the ground.

The best guess, according to Bennett, is that it was an act of

vandalism. Bennett called the Salt Lake City Parks Department representative that the Federation works with at the site and was told that the city had nothing to do with the removal. In fact, the city knew of and approved the project in advance.

Though the willow cuttings did not cost the non-profit organization any money, a lot of paid and volunteer time was lost. The group decided in late March to cut additional willows from a nearby site along the Jordan River and replant. However, the cuttings can only be done while the willows are dormant, so time was critical.

The willows were cut again on March 26th and replanted on April 2nd. During the week between, the cuttings were stored in water in a dark, cool place to help them stay viable, but dormant.

Hand Digging Not the Only Game in Town

At a recent riparian restoration training in Panguitch, Utah, federal, state and local representatives learned several techniques for 'soft structures' to repair stream banks.

The water stinger, shown below, uses pressurized water to create a hole for planting dormant willows.

Participants were shown banks and in-stream fixes. One in stream remedy was the use of barbs constructed of willow wads, rather than rock.

"Willow" continued from page 1

holes. Federation employees had gone to a nearby home improvement store and purchase 1-inch plastic irrigation pipe. Using a sledge hammer, they pounded the pipe into the ground to loosen the soil and create a narrow hole. This technique worked for a while until the hard soil got the better of the plastic pipe. They switched to a metal pipe and continued.

After the younger group left a group of teens who have participated with the Federation's PeaceTrees summer leadership camp arrived to finish the job.

In all the organization and its volunteers planted about 100 willows.



Youth and adult volunteers dig holes for the willows on the original planting day in early March. The holes were still viable and ready to use for the second planting.



Above: Ian Cutler, Utah Federation for Youth, harvests willows from a healthy stand about three miles down stream. Shortly after these willows were relocated up stream, they were vandalized. A second bunch of dormant willows were planted before the growing season started.



Left: Jeremy Maestes, a wildlife biologist in the Provo field office of the Natural resource Conservation Service, tries out the water stinger during training. The stinger was one of many bank stabilization methods used during the training.